The fertile leaves conſiſt of fewer joints than the barren, and ſometimes produce a few ſecond leaves at the baſe of the vaginæ.

BARREN LEAVES,

The barren leaf which is cut into three parts, in the plate, *Fig.* B, riſes from the ſame root as the fertile leaf, and conſiſts, when full grown, of twenty-ſix or thirty joints, riſes to the height of three feet or more, is of a freſh green colour, and ſmooth ſurface, while young; when dry, becomes channelled, with twelve or fourteen furrows. The joints are cloſely embraced by the vaginæ, while the plant is freſh; when dry, the ſtem is contracted, the vaginæ are lax, and ſpread out at the margin.

The firſt leaves are moſt commonly ſimple and naked, as at B; but ſometimes one or two branches riſe from the lower joints, as at C; which branches are of the ſame ſtructure as the firſt leaf or principal ſtem.

The firſt leaves alſo ſometimes produce proper ſecond leaves, D, from the baſe of the upper vaginæ; two or three of theſe at a joint, ſometimes, though rarely, ſix or ſeven; they are unequal in length, jointed, pentangular, and the joints ſurrounded with a black quinquidentate vagina.

Grows in ſhallow ponds and ſtanding waters; and flowers in May.